

**Statement By The Michigan Railroads Association**

**On Senate Bill 565  
Before The  
House Judiciary Committee  
February 7, 2008**

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Bob Chaprnka and I am president of the Michigan Railroads Association. The MRA represents the rail freight industry whose members ship 98% of all the rail freight moved in Michigan

Senate Bill 565 amends the Michigan Penal Code by extending to shipping containers the code's prohibitions against breaking and entering and entering without breaking.

Since 1980 rail intermodal traffic has quadrupled. Rail intermodal transportation is the movement of containers or truck trailers by rail and at least one other mode of transportation usually trucks and/or ocean going vessels.

Shipping containers are used to ship a vast array of commodities such as car parts and just about every conceivable consumer product produced. Shipping containers more and more are the targets of crimes of breaking and entering. Shipping containers are not specifically defined in the Michigan Penal Code as a target of breaking and entering and it is my understanding that this had made some prosecutions difficult.

Senate Bill 565 will rectify this situation by including shipping containers in crimes of breaking and entering.

Thank you.